

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01

PRS-01 NEAE-00 /032 W

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O 261147Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4961

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 1504

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KING HASSAN II)

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN'S STATE VISIT: PROPOSED

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: RABAT 1456

1. NEWS OF KING FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION HAS LEFT GOM IN STATE OF SHOCK AND INTERRUPTED MY NORMAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH KING HASSAN. AS A RESULT GOM HAS NOT REACTED TO PROPOSED TIMING AND TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT AND IT WILL THEREFORE BE NECESSARY TO DEFER ANNOUNCEMENT TO A LATER DATE. SPECIFICALLY: (A) ACTING FONMIN CHERKAOUI ASSURED ME YESTERDAY THAT KING HASSAN WAS DEEPLY AFFECTED BY ASSASSINATION, TO EXTENT IT HAD BECOME MOST DIFFICULT TO APPROACH HIM ON OTHER MATTERS; CHERKAOUI ASKED FOR USG UNDERSTANDING OF GOM INABILITY ACT ON ANNOUNCEMENT, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. (B) GENERAL MOULAY HAFID, PALACE MINISTER OF ROYAL PROTOCOL AND MY NORMAL CHANNEL TO KING ON MATTERS RELATING TO STATE VISIT, IS ON HIS WAY TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH CROWN PRINCE TO ATTEND FUNERAL.

2. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT KING HASSAN WOULD WELCOME HAVING HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON ANNOUNCED AT VERY MOMENT OTHER ARAB LEADERS ARE MAKING PILGRIMAGE TO RIYADH TO ATTEND FEISAL'S FUNERAL. TO PRESS FOR AN ANSWER TO REFTEL AT THIS POINT WOULD DISPLAY INSENSITIVITY TO KING HASSAN'S
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FEELINGS AND BE DEEPLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. I THEREFORE TRUST

THAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE IN WASHINGTON TODAY AND
THAT MATTER WILL BE LEFT PENDING UNTIL LATER IN WEEK AFTER
I HAVE HAD TIME TO SORT MATTERS OUT IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.

3. I EXPECT TO SEE AMBASSADOR BOUTALEB LATER TODAY. HIS
TIMELY PRESENCE HERE SHOULD GREATLY HELP ME IN EFFORTS
RESUME DIALOGUE ON VISIT AS SOON AS IMMEDIATE SHOCK OF
FEISAL'S DEATH HAS WORN OFF.
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